

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4615

C O N F I D E N T I A L LA PAZ 6957

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP BL

SUBJ: GOB REQUESTS AGREEMENT FOR REOBERTO CAPRILES AS AMBASSADOR
TO U.S.

1. SUB-SECRETARY FOREIGN OFFICE, MARCELO OSTRIA, HANDED ME
ON OCT. 24 NOTE WHICH READS AS FOLLOWS TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH:
QTE: LA PAZ, OCT. 23, 1974. MR. AMBASSADOR: I HAVE THE HONOR OF
ADDRESSING YOUR EXCELLENCY ON THE OCCASION OF COMMUNICATING
TO YOU THAT THE SUPREME GOVERNMENT HAS DESIGNATED ENGINEER
ROBERTO CAPRILES TO EXERCISE THE FUNCTIONS OF AMBASSADOR
EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF BOLIVIA BEFORE THE GOVERN-
MENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

THEREFORE, I REQUEST YOUR EXCELLENCY TO INFORM THE ILLUS-
TRIOUS GOVERNMENT OF YOUR COUNTRY OF THIS INTENTION ABOUT WHICH
I HAVE ATTACHED THE CURRICULUM VITAE OF ENGINEER ROBERTO
CAPRILES SO THAT THE APPROPRIATE AGREEMENT COULD BE OBTAINED.

I TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO REPEAT TO YOU, MR. AMBASSADOR,
THE ASSURANCES OF MY HIGHEST CONSIDERATION. /SIGNED/MARCELO
OSTRIA TRIGO. UNQTE.

2. THE CURRICULUM VITAE ATTACHED TO THE NOTE IS AS FOLLOWS:

NAME: ING. ROBERTO CAPRILES

PLACE OF BIRTH: COCHABAMBA, BOLIVIA

AGE: 53

WIFE: ALIVIA TEJADA DE CAPRILES

CHILDREN: CARLOS, 19, EDUARDO, 18, ROBERTO, 16

EDUCATION: ATTENDED PRIMARY AND SECONDARY PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN
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BOLIVIA AND STUDIED CIVIL AND ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING AT THE

UNIVERSITY OF CHILE IN SANTIAGO. HOLDS TITLE AS CIVIL ENGINEER FROM THAT UNIVERSITY, GRANTED IN 1946.

IMPORTANT POSITIONS HELD: HIS PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY HAS BEEN DEDICATED TO VARIOUS PROGRAMS OF DEVELOPMENT OF BOLIVIA, PRINCIPALLY IN THE FIELD OF ENGINEERING. HE HAS PARTICIPATED IN THE PLANNING, FINANCING, AND EXECUTION OF NUMEROUS PROJECTS IN THIS COUNTRY. FROM FEBRUARY TO JULY, 1974, HE HELD THE POSITION OF MINISTER OF COORDINATION OF THE PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC. IN THAT CAPACITY HE WAS THE PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC AND PLANNING COUNCIL AND THE NATIONAL POLITICAL AND SOCIAL COUNCIL. FROM AUGUST 1971 TO FEBRUARY 1974 HE WAS MINISTER OF ENERGY AND HYDROCARBONS, SERVING ALSO AS PRESIDENT OF THE BOLIVIAN STATE PETROLEUM ORGANIZATION, OF THE NATIONAL ELECTRICAL ENTERPRISE, AND THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR RURAL ELECTRIFICATION. IN 1970 HE ALSO WAS MINISTER OF ENERGY AND HYDROCARBONS. HE ORGANIZED THE NATIONAL ELECTRICAL ENTERPRISE AND HELD THE POSITION OF GENERAL MANAGER FROM 1963 TO 1971. THIS STATE ENTERPRISE IS CHARGED WITH THE EXECUTION OF THE NATIONAL ELECTRIFICATION PLAN AND IS INVOLVED IN CARRYING OUT THE MOST IMPORTANT ELECTRIC PROJECTS OF THE COUNTRY. HE WAS PRESIDENT AND DIRECTOR OF THE LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY OF COCHABAMBA FOR SEVERAL YEARS AND WORKED IN THE ELECTRICAL DEVELOPMENT AND ADMINISTRATION COMPANY (CADAPE), A STATE ENTERPRISE CHARGED WITH CARRYING OUT ELECTRICAL PROGRAMS IN VENEZUELA, FROM 1959 TO 1962. HE HELD TECHNICAL POSITIONS IN THE BOLIVIAN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION AND IN THE BOLIVIAN MINING CORPORATION. HE ALSO WORKED IN CONSTRUCTION AND PETROLEUM SERVICE COMPANIES IN BOLIVIA, THE UNITED STATES, AND VENEZUELA BETWEEN 1947 AND 1959.

PUBLICATIONS: HE IS THE AUTHOR OF NUMEROUS STUDIES OF A TECHNICAL CHARACTER AND HAS PARTICIPATED IN VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS CONCERNED WITH ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT.

3. ROBERTO CAPRILES IS WELL KNOWN TO THIS EMBASSY AND ALSO TO THE WORLD BANK AND U.S. PRIVATE SECTOR. HE HAS AN OUTSTANDING REPUTATION AS AN EXTREMELY COMPETENT TECHNICIAN, GOOD MANAGER, AND HAS DEMONSTRATED COMPETENT LEADERSHIP. HIS GENERAL REPUTATION IS THAT OF A PERSON WITH THE HIGHEST ORDER OF INTEGRITY AND HE IS REGARDED AS AN APOLITICAL INDIVIDUAL. HE
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ENJOYS THE PERSONAL CONFIDENCE OF PRESIDENT BANZER. IT IS MY PERSONAL OPINION THAT ROBERTO CAPRILES WILL BE AN EXCELLENT BOLIVIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE U.S., A PERSON WITH WHOM U.S. OFFICIALS WILL BE ABLE TO WORK HARMONIOUSLY AND SERIOUSLY. I RECOMMEND A FAVORABLE AND PROMPT REPLY TO THE REQUEST FOR HIS AGREEMENT.
STEDMAN

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